

AN ORDINANCE BY

COUNCILMEMBER DERRICK BOAZMAN

04-0-0773

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HER DESIGNEE TO DECREASE THE WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR RATE PAYERS IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR WHERE REASONABLE AND PRACTICAL AS REVENUES ARE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH GRANTS, TAXES AND OTHER SOURCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Atlanta operates several Water Reclamation Facilities for the purpose of cleaning its waste and storm water for deposit back into the Chattahoochee River and other tributaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Atlanta (rate payers) recently had their water and sewer rates increased more than 100% in 2004 through Ordinance 03-O-2212;

**WHEREAS**, the average citizen of Atlanta cannot afford this type of increase, since roughly 24.4% of Atlanta households have annual incomes of less than \$15,000.00 compared with the national average of 15.9%; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia will provide some relief through low interest loans/grants which should assist the City in not having to go to the bond market at considerable financial cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly also passed legislation to allow the City of Atlanta to go to the voters in July to try and get a Municipal Options Sales Tax (M.O.S.T.) passed; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Atlanta are keenly aware of the problems the City faces with its water issues as mandated by the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and the 1998 and 1999 Consent Decree Orders; however, they are also concerned with providing for their families, paying taxes and just trying to survive in a slowing economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA; as follows:**

**SECTION 1:** That the Mayor or her designee reduce the city's water and sewer rate structure which was increased in January 5, 2004 (03-O-2212) dollar for dollar when reasonable and practical and as soon as revenues are anticipated and appropriated by the City of Atlanta as was contemplated by Section 5 of the referenced ordinance.

**SECTION 2:** That the Executive Branch continue to seek financial assistance from local, state and federal government in an effort to continue to reduce the burden of the City's rate payers .

**SECTION 3:** That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived.